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The following newsletter was sent by the Director of the Sardis Expedition. This Expedition is sponsored by Cornell University, the Fogg Art Museum of Harvard University, the Bollingen Foundation, Inc., and is another of the expeditions taking the field under the auspices of the American Schools of Oriental Research.

A. Henry Detweiler, President

There is a kind of rhythm to an excavation - the first week brings usually the excitement of a new start, then things tend to settle down for a while, and finally the discoveries pick up speed and accelerate often to the end. We at Sardis are now just about at mid-way of the season and definitely in the accelerating stage. There is not a day but some exciting find or emergence of new buildings is reported from one of our seven sectors.

Within the last few days we have discovered impressive parts of Hellenistic fortifications on the Acropolis, major Lydian buildings of at least the seventh century B.C. on the Pactolus, amazing accumulations of Lydian pottery and new Lydian units in the area of the House of Bronzes; we are apparently descending into something like a Lydian stratum under the Artemis Temple, while uncovering at the same time an incredibly vast arcaded complex east of the gymnasium. Finally, at the strange and colossal complex CG we have proved that the two masonry structures were linked by arches of masonry of quite astonishing weight and we have begun restoration of two units of the Roman bath which was built as an addition to the original building "CG".

Finds of objects, too, are increasing. The one which pleased us most was the discovery at the new Hellenistic wall on the Acropolis of a very pretty bronze relief of a boar, late Classic or Early Hellenistic. A tantalizing find emerged from the Roman fill in the House of Bronzes area, a heavy, full-cast bronze ear of a horse or a mule, quite elaborately gilded - it is not difficult to think of the horses of San Marco and other famous Roman monumental bronze statues (although our draftsman Güven Bakir proffered the even more attractive idea that the ear might have come from a Midas with donkey's ears.) A happy reunion was celebrated when Mario Del Chiaro found a handle in the shape of a pipe-blowing Pan which fits a vase discovered last Season in the Hellenistic "Tomb of the Lintel"; it was Mario again, who found a foot to the Roman statue of an official; and, in fact, on his very first day of digging he picked up a very interesting fragment of a winged being, a painted architectural terracotta relief. We are beginning to get a few of these which are vital evidence that something more than humble dwellings must be involved in the sector on the east bank of the Pactolus. Quite extensive remains of at least three buildings and of at least three Lydian strata are being dug there and the pottery is fascinating, including a number of Protocorinthian and Rhodian fragments, certainly not later than the first half of the seventh century B.C. Today fragments of a curious

vase with serious-looking fish came up from this most promising area.

Through generous donations of the Thern Machine Company and the Yale and Towne Company we had brought in a worm gear winch and a hoist and eventually we were fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of some engineers from U.S. Army Engineer Corps and the Reynolds Construction Company. With their help and advice we secured the necessary cable and hook to operate the winch and received from the Reynolds Company a tripod to operate the hoist. We are much indebted to Mr. Anthony G. Zahka, Mr. John J. Peers, and Mr. Malamed, whose help brought about an early beginning of our restoration work. Their visits and those of their colleagues are always a welcome event. Mehmet Bolgil, architectural student from Harvard and Charles Rogers, ditto from Cornell have successfully operated the equipment in the east cella of the huge Artemis Temple which was excavated by H.C. Butler before the First World War. There we propose to restore the area of the statue base which was left in something like shambles, when the outbreak of the war put an end to the first Sardis excavation. Preliminary to the final phase of the restoration we decided to sink a test pit between the foundations. We seem to be on the verge of developments which may lead to results different from those obtained by Butler. Suffice to say that today W.C.Burriss Young, who acts as supervisor of this test, reported a stratum with many Lydian sherds.

Burriss is actually our Laboratory Supervisor, who with the help of two Turkish assistants has already done very considerable work on restoration of pottery and sculpture, as well as cleaning of all sorts of other objects. Since we are next door neighbors to Artemis, he can walk over to his pit in three minutes.

The House of Bronzes Area was re-started by Donald P. Hansen from the Oriental Institute, Chicago, who subsequently left for the Acropolis. The sector is now going strong under the supervision of Gustavus F. Swift, Junior, of the Oriental Institute Chicago. As readers of this letter may recall, we had found in the northern part of this area the Early Byzantine "House of Bronzes", a Hellenistic and Roman cemetery, and finally the Lydian levels including a Potter's Shop and a complete room. This year we started trenching north-south and east-west across the entire field. Things looked somewhat discouraging at first, when nothing but fill and earth were encountered. Then the walls of a large Roman building began to appear in the eastern part. Still, we were somewhat dismayed when at a depth of 12 feet we found a Roman grave - but it turned out that right next to it were Lydian walls! And now in one of the western squares of the trench Gus has found an incredible accumulation of pottery, very reminiscent of our "Potter's Shop" found in 1958. We are about to open a large area to find out whether we are in a Potters' Quarter but there is no doubt that the area was occupied in Lydian times.

We had always known that there were big complexes east and west of the huge building "B" which we had proved to be a gymnasium in 1958. But even so we were surprised when in trying to ascertain the major points of the plan in the area east of "B" we saw the tops of the mounds transformed into one array of brick arches and limestone piers

after another. Supervised by David Gordon Mitten of Harvard and Amer. School of Classical Studies, Athens, in joint planning with our Chief Architect, Tony Casendino of Cornell, assisted by Bob Whallon of Harvard, this is our most mechanized operation. The two trucks, the Citroen with dumping caissons and the Ford, are performing noble deeds and fill us with gratitude to the donor to whom we owe all of our four vehicles. The plan of this complex is going to be very interesting as it seems to have a kind of curvilinear facade with niches to the east. We are now about to tackle the central part which from last year's excavations we know to be something like a central court leading from a marble colonnade to a monumental gate with a marble facade- this in turn leading into the central hall of the gymnasium "B"

I was somewhat apprehensive about starting the Acropolis enterprise but a helpful shove came when Tony Casendino, Crawford Greenewalt, Don Hansen, Mehmet Bolgil, and Güven Bakir discovered a small but beautifully wrought piece of marble wall just below the north peak. The masonry with drafted edges looked Hellenistic and thus we were impelled to open two sectors on the Acropolis - one on the North Slope, the other on the flat central platform. The first ascents were made by the senior members with much huffing and puffing but our energetic Commissioner, Kemal Ziya Polatkan swung into action, had the path (it is hardly a road) improved, donkey caravans organized, and now it is routine for the younger members to run up and down, and some of them have done it twice a day. The spot where we have found the Hellenistic walls commands one of the most gorgeous views imaginable with all of the Hermus valley spread out before you, and, indeed Don Hansen who is supervising the two Acropolis sectors, and Tony Casendino and Bob Mayers (Cornell) who have been doing architectural work there, can watch almost all other sectors from their lofty perch. Though overlaid with Byzantine additions, the preserved parts of a tower and wall are impressive, indeed. On the central platform of the Acropolis we have encountered so far only the latest phase, probably fourteenth and thirteenth century A.D., with poor disconnected structures made of spoils. Here too we are about to go down to earlier strata.

To finish off the archaeological part, I must mention the discovery, again in Del Chiaro's sector on the Pactolus, of a colorful ornamental mosaic, presumably Early Byzantine, of which we have laid bare only one part. Small finds are abundant. The numerous stamps in Greek on a ware which otherwise looks quite like Roman Arretine will be of great interest to specialists in Late Hellenistic and Early Roman pottery; and our collection of the attractive sgraffiato wares of the Byzantine period is rapidly increasing as is our collection of glass. We look forward to the arrival of Axel von Saldern of the Corning Museum, who will study the glass. We are very much gratified that the Corning Museum has made a grant to, and is a participant in this season's digging, alongside the ASOR, Cornell, and the Fogg Museum of Harvard.

Life and work in "the compound" has been very pleasant this season, even if the heat is perhaps a touch above average. During the winter our Commissioner has seen through the completion of the laboratory and 4 rooms on the upper terrace, of the storage and workshop, of the garage, and of a much appreciated additional and bigger kitchen. The

place is now "run in" and most of the household personnel (which now includes two cooks, two drivers, two houseboys, and a messenger who shops and gets our mail from the nearest town) are familiar with their duties.

We have had a good many visitors among whom were Professor Oscar J. Seitz of Kenyon College, President Duncan S. Ballantine of Robert College, and Professor John M. Cook of Bristol University, well known for his excavations of Old Smyrna. His Excellency the Governor of the Vilayet of Manisa honored us with a visit (which of course, occurred at the precise moment when I was under the shower). Americans resident in the Izmir region have continued their interest in our project. Just previous to the beginning of the excavations Gus Swift conducted the Turkish-American association around the site. We were happy to see again Col. and Mrs. Henry H. Waller and Lt. Col. and Mrs. C. M. Fuller, who, like Col. Aldrich Zackerle and Miss Patricia Byrne and Miss Kathleen Fritz have been such good friends to the expedition.

One blaringly hot noon, a couple of days ago, we were startled by the vision of a camp of tents growing up under our eyes on the slope just next to our "compound." They turned out to be engineers and students commissioned by the Department of Public Waterworks to lay out an irrigation system in the Hermus Plain, now that the great Demir Köprü Dam has been completed. Their work will entail mapping of the area which might profit us greatly. On the other hand, they are in the market for labor which might somewhat impair our labor force which currently runs close to 150 workmen.

The picture of the dig would not be complete without the mention of the well-organized Department which (Mrs.) Ilse Hanfmann and (Mrs.) Claire Albright have installed in the new workshed and the now completely professional looking architects' room with screens to pin on drawings and Rotolite for copying, which the indefatigable Tony Casendino, and his Cornell colleagues, Charlie Rogers and Bob Mayers have added to previous facilities. They have to cover a lot of ground but with our increased motorization this presents less problems than before (except when one or the other of the vehicles develops ailments, which is not an infrequent occurrence). As last year, "Greeny" (Crawford H. Greenewalt, Jr.) is our photographer, who also takes occasional turns at the various sectors; and our valuable draftsman, Güven Bakir, now a student of archaeology at the University of Ankara, is also getting in some field training.

We are expecting in August A. Henry Detweiler, President of the American Schools of Oriental Research, our Associate Director. Medical reasons and administrative duties have kept him in Ithaca for most of the summer but we are now looking forward to a happy reunion and to his participation in what looks like our best season to date.

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Exploration of Sardis